

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sensor is provided at the gateway of a local area network for successively acquiring IP packets passing through the gateway. The sensor detects various cracker attacks against the network based on the acquired IP packets. Information as to attacks detected by the sensor is given to a director which controls a firewall at the gateway of the network. Based on the given information, the director controls settings for the firewall to prevent IP packets associated with the detected attacks from entering the local area network.